

THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 82, Number 25

Washing that troll right out of my hair since 1911

Wednesday, October 21, 1992

Housing activists angry at lift of condo conversion ban

BY DAVE LEY

About 30 people demonstrated outside city hall Monday to demand that the city abandon plans to lift a ban on converting rental housing units to condos.

The city of Montréal instituted a ban on condo conversions in 1987 in response to pressure by local housing activists who claimed that the conversions lead to rent increases, harassment of tenants,

evictions, and building disrepair.

The city announced plans to lift the ban at the next council meeting on November 24.

"Landlords will see it as more profitable to convert their rental units to condos, and tenants with low income who can't afford to buy their own apartment will be forced out," said Robert Pilon, a member of le Front d'Action Populaire en Réaménagement Urbain (FRAPRU).

"We know that landlords will find ways of kicking tenants out, through harassment or whatever. They will always find ways," he said.

But city executive committee member John Gardiner, who is responsible for housing, said that the lift of the ban would be regulated and harassment of tenants would not be permitted.

Landlords convicted of harassing tenants could face up to \$25 000 in fines, he said.

Pilon was not convinced. "The city is saying now that it will permit condo conversion but stop people from kicking out tenants," he said.

"We know from what happened before 1987 that there will always be ways of getting around the rules," he continued.

Condo conversions have become a major issue in the upcoming St-

the ban of conversions, could lead to many rental tenants being forced from their homes.

Many of the 12 candidates running for the by-election see the lift of the ban as yet another promise broken by the ruling Montréal Citizens' Movement.

But conservative candidates like Sammy Forcillo, running for the right-wing Civic Party, have favoured promoting condo conversion.

The Civic Party and city council opposition leader Nick auf der Maur (representing the Peter-McGill district) has repeatedly called for the city to lift the ban.



John Gardiner, exec committee member in charge of housing.

Jaques district by-election, to be held November 1. A plan to permit the building of 10 000 new condos in the district, coupled with the lift of

election if you live anywhere between Papineau and Bleury and Sherbrooke and the water. Phone 872-1111 for info on how to register.

Conscientious consumption

Ethical grocery guide offers food for thought

BY JULIE COULSON

After reading *Hungry for Justice: The Montreal Guide to Socially Responsible Food Choices* you may want to consider where you've been purchasing your groceries.

The guide, released last week, is the result of a year and a half long project of the Québec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG) and the Global Co-operation Network. It covers a range of food consumption issues, and is sure to enlighten Montréal residents about their participation in the food industry.

Coordinators hope the guide will make students aware of their role as consumers, and provide them with grocery shopping alternatives.

"Students and other low-income groups just get whatever's cheapest," said Beth Hunter, one of the guide coordinators.

"Students also have a more transient life, so it's more difficult to affect changes, like having a garden, composting, and cutting down on over-packaged food," she said. "More than half the household waste in North America is from packaging!"

"But students are also more willing to make decisions based on ethical choices — maybe because if you study, say, international politics or geography, you'll understand the effects of certain actions," she said. "I hope this book will make people informed enough to make the choice."

The guide opens with chapters on world and national hunger, government policy, transnational corporate control, and trade agreements.

"Some things are apparent, but we don't realize the implications — it's apparent that we can get kiwis from New Zealand, but what

does that mean for Canadian farmers? What's pushed is how great these exotic fruits are, not the urban-rural connection."

Readers are then encouraged to take a "supermarket tour" and to apply their rights and purchasing powers with respect to labeling, packaging, organic agriculture, boycotts and advocacy.

The guide also evaluates local alternatives to retail stores, including a city map of public markets, and encouraging insights into the co-op movement.

The remaining chapters in this user-friendly guide delineate the production, processing, marketing and consumption situation of various food types — grains, produce, meat, dairy, and beer. Corporate profiles and advice on how to enact change in your habits drive the guide's well-taken points home.

Unfortunately, the book will appear only in health food stores, to people who are already somewhat aware of their consumer behaviour. The "big store" shoppers and the Kraft Dinner dependants who most need this information, but are the least open to it, may never come across it.

"The guide is directed at consumers, not producers and manufacturers," said Hunter. "If we as consumers start asking questions like 'Where do these vegetables come from?' information in stores about additives, pesticides, post-harvest treatments will be made available."

The guide cost \$4, and can be purchased at QPIRG McGill, 505 Eaton, at the Concordia QPIRG office, 2130 MacKay, and at organic products stores, including Optimum, on Sherbrooke at Union. It is printed on 100% post-consumer paper.

Ottawa residents fight for abortion clinic

BY STUART MACMILLAN

OTTAWA (CUP) — Pro-choice activists in Ottawa are gearing up for a fight to get the city its own abortion clinic.

Dr. Henry Morgentaler applied to the Ottawa District Health Council to open a clinic in August 1991, and the application is still under review. Pro-choice activists say they think the health council and the provincial government are stalling.

Denise Lachance, head of the Ottawa Pro-Choice Network, said abortion services aren't readily accessible to Ottawa-area women.

"Every year, hundreds of Ottawa-area women travel to Toronto and other cities to have abortions," said Lachance.

Long waiting periods for abortions in local hospitals prolong the mental anguish suffered by women and potentially increases the risks of the procedure if performed later in the pregnancy, Lachance said.

Waiting periods have been between three and four weeks in the Ottawa area, according to Judy Brown of the Civic Hospital. The Civic Hospital performs the majority of abortions in Ottawa.

Lachance said a local clinic would assure quicker access to abortion for women. She said waiting periods at Morgentaler's clinic in Toronto are usually one week.

Lachance also said a clinic would provide a more sympathetic environment for women, where the moral convictions of doctors would not interfere with the quality of care women would receive.

Abortion and the right to choose are important issues for students, she added. Women between the ages of 17 and 24 constitute the largest group using abortion services.

"Nothing puts an end to studies like an unplanned pregnancy," Lachance recently told a group of Carleton University students.

Zahra Dhanani, of the University of Ottawa's Women's Centre, echoed this sentiment, stressing that an unplanned pregnancy can lead to "very hard decisions, changing the whole path of a student's life".

The proposed clinic would be supported by the province's health plan and used as a training facility.

Before the provincial NDP government came to

power two years ago, an abortion in Toronto cost approximately \$300. Now covered under the province's health plan, abortion services are more accessible.

Anti-abortion groups deny the need for an Ottawa clinic.

Betty Smith of Action Life, an anti-abortion group, said that money should not be spent on abortions while the province's health care system is facing cut-backs.



Henry Morgentaler

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filthy passions



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God at McGill?

Come and join what will likely be the biggest worship service ever held at McGill. Christians from different faculties and denominations will be gathering to praise and worship God and to celebrate the fullness of life in Christ. Come and be a part of the celebration.

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events

The McGill Book Fair sells cheap books today and Thursday, Redpath Hall, 9h — 21h00. Info. 398-4534.

Temple Emanu-El-Beth Shalom host Robert Adams reviewing *My Son's Story* by Nadine Gordimer as part of their Book Lovers Forum. 395 Elm Ave., 9h30, \$5.

McGill law prof Stephen Scott will debate the No side against Robert Lipman for the Yes. Moot Court, Law Faculty, 12h30.

QPRIG is looking for volunteers interested in putting together a green plan on environmental policy at McGill as well as those wanting to work directly on issues of waste management in campus cafeterias. All welcome to meeting 17h30, Eaton 505.

The Southern Africa Committee and the Black Students' Network are holding a combined meeting at which a film on South Africa will be shown. Multicultural lounge, Union 4th floor, 18h. Info. 398-6815.

McGill Students for the NO are hosting an open microphone debate on the Charlottetown Accord, Union Ballroom, 19h30.

The International Socialists talk "Safajevo to Somalia — The World Economy in Crisis" in Union 302, 19h30. Info: Chantal, 948-4284.



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Montréal artists call attention to James Bay Cree

BY RON LACHMAN

A group of Montreal artists has just finished painting a mural that they hope will call attention to the plight of Cree Indians in the James Bay region.

Local painter Farazin Farzaneh said the mural is an affirmation of the Cree way of life, not just a protest of Hydro-Québec's development.

"It's an attempt to show the social costs of the consumerist ethic that these corporations promote," said Farzaneh, one of the organisers of the mural project. "We don't have the right to upset any community's way of life."

Hydro Québec has dammed several rivers in northern Québec as part of the James Bay megaproject, flooding Cree land.

The mural, painted by eighteen different artists, is on the side of the Librairie Alternative on St-Laurent below Sherbrooke. The foreground shows a "walking-out" ceremony, which traditionally involves a pa-

rade of Cree children who have learned to walk that year. The girl in the mural carries a knife, the boy a rifle, symbolizing their future roles as food gatherers and hunters.

In the background is a caribou-

"We didn't want to make a vague, general protest," said Farzaneh. "We needed to point the finger at specific interests. Those buildings say that James Bay development is not in the Cree interest or anyone else's,

except those out for profit."

The bottom of the mural was intended for graffiti, but the artists de-

cided instead to fill the space with images of drowned caribou. Artist Carole Beaulieu said this alludes to the 10 000 caribou that drowned in 1984 when their migration patterns were interrupted by the flooded Caniapiscu River. She said Hydro Québec's dams caused the flooding.

"The government said it was because of heavy rains. (Premier Robert) Bourassa called it an 'act of God,'" Beaulieu said. "The rest of us know better."

An idea for a James Bay/Cree mural had been kicked around by

local artists for years, but Farzaneh and McGill student Elizabeth Littlejohn decided to act on it in late 1990, and began to raise money and organise. Artists like Beaulieu, who worked with Farzaneh on other murals, joined in.

"I've been to James Bay, and I've shown the Cree photos of some of the murals I'd done," said Beaulieu. "They were really impressed and asked if I could do one for them. When I heard Farzin already had one in the works, I jumped at the chance to help."

The group approached organizations like the Sierra Club, QPIRG and Greenpeace for funding, but were unsuccessful. The only contributor was the Grand Council of Cree, which kicked in \$6000. Twelve artists designed the mural over a two-year period and three weeks ago 18 artists began painting it. The mural was finished last Sunday.

Getting people thinking

Reaction so far has been overwhelmingly positive. As the artists worked, passers-by and store owners voiced their approval.

The mural has also attracted the attention of Hydro-Québec.

"Two workers on the James Bay project approached us and said they didn't agree with what they were doing," said Farzaneh. "They said they did it for the money."

"And just recently a Hydro-Québec official came by and talked over James Bay with us. He said he was going to send over two colleagues to discuss it further. That's something, at least," he said.

Brian Craik, the federal relations officer for the Grand Council of Cree said the mural will help to bring James Bay into the public eye.

"Right now when people look up in the sky and see hydro lines, they may only think of the benefits," he said. "When they look at the mural, they will see how another way of life that doesn't necessarily thrive off electricity has been adversely affected."

Artist Sabrina Mathews agrees. "We all take electricity for granted. But this development has shaken a whole community," she said. "The mural is one step towards getting people to think about it."



city council briefs

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

On October 18th, a woman's body was discovered in an alley between St. Urbain and Clark Streets just above Prince Arthur. Police believe the body was dumped there. "Signs of violence" were discovered around the woman's neck, according to the police. While the coroner investigating the case refused to comment on whether the woman had been sexually assaulted, a police detective did acknowledge that the woman was found with her sweater on backwards as if someone else had dressed her.

On October 14th at 18h00, a woman was walking on Prince Arthur Street between Hutchinson and Lorne when a man started to follow her and began verbally harassing her. He became increasingly aggressive and walked quickly towards her. When she crossed the street, he continued to follow her until the corner where he turned.

On October 14th at 0h30 a woman was mugged while walking west along Prince Arthur Street between Ste-Famille and St-Urbain. A man grabbed her from behind and pulled her onto the street. She resisted him and he grabbed her handbag and ran off into a nearby alley. The man was described as white with dark hair.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Anyone with information regarding these occurrences, or who has been involved in an assault is advised to report the incident to the Montréal police, McGill Sexual Assault Coalition 398 - 2700, and the Walk Safe Network 398-2498.

City council met Monday night and continued late Tuesday amidst a newly redecorated council chamber, including a revamped speaker's chair and new microphones. Particularly impressive is the new press bench where all us press people can sit down on comfy chairs on the main floor of the chamber instead of where they used to shove us up in the balconies.

The renovations are part of the city's \$23 million project for revamping city hall, which includes such nicities as \$800 000 toilets for Montréal mayor Jean Doré.

MCM scraping the barrel

Sam Boskey of the Democratic Coalition of Montréal (DCM) questioned why the ruling Montréal Citizen's Movement (MCM) had originally asked Sammy Forcillo to run as its candidate in the St-Jaques by-election November 1.

Forcillo is presently running for the right-wing Civic Party, which supports, among other things, a lifting of the ban on conversion of rental units to condominiums. Mayor Jean Doré refused to comment on the issue.

Claude Watters is the present candidate running for the MCM in the by-election.

Cleaning up Ste-Catherine

Nick auf der Maur, leader of the Civic Party, asked what the mayor was going to do to clean up Ste-Catherine Street, which he called a "street in decline". Auf der Maur's questions were prompted by an earlier statement by Doré that the city was considering closing Ste-Catherine to traffic on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays to make shopping there more attractive.

Auf der Maur called the idea ludicrous, saying that it would hurt merchants more than it would help them. "The problem with the downtown merchants is that they're trying to compete with all the big shopping malls," said Auf-der Maur. "Making it more difficult to drive downtown to do your shopping is not going to solve the problem."

Doré responded that the idea for closing off Ste-Catherine was only one idea.

"I was just suggesting one particular idea," said Doré. "It's an idea that would have to be discussed with everyone."

Bikes need a place in Montréal

A representative from Vélo Mondial, a local cycling activist group, asked when the city was going to add more lock up posts for bicycles, particularly downtown but also in some residential areas.

"The number of bicyclists in Montréal is growing," he said. "We need more bike stations on St-Laurent and Ste-Catherine. But people who live on third floor triplexes also need a place to park their bikes."

City executive member André Lavellé responded that the city is starting up a pilot project in the spring to add more bike stations along St-Denis, and that if that went well, more would be added elsewhere.

Is the city getting screwed?

DCM member Sam Boskey questioned whether a move to sell off a portion of city property to a private investor at discounted rates would be fiscally prudent.

The city is selling a strip of land next to St-Patrick Street by the Lachine Canal to Contructions Désourdy Inc. for \$12 428, though the value of the land was assessed by the city is \$65 928.

The city has said that the difference of \$53 500 is because the company is constructing sewers for the plot of land.

City to borrow \$86 million to fund office building

Discussions went on into the very late evening on the last minute proposal by the city executive committee to post a \$86 million bond to finance the World Trade Centre.

The centre, with an occupancy rate of 30 per cent, is facing extreme pressure from its creditors, and the city has proposed bailing it out.

The World Trade Centre has been a virtual failure from its beginning, especially with the tremendous glut in office space in Montréal. In fact most of the tenants are municipal, provincial or federal governmental departments.

The proposal was expected to go through, though details were not known at press time.

— by Dave Ley

THE MCGILL DAILY

comment

Condo conversion hurts students

The city's ruling Montréal Citizen's Movement (MCM) has never been good at keeping its promises.

It has backtracked on virtually every promise it got elected on (more greenspace, reduced transit fees, more housing for low-income tenants...). Now, by announcing that it will lift the city's ban on converting rental units into condos, the MCM is going back on one of its most fundamental housing policies.

After the province gave municipalities more freedom over housing issues in 1987, housing groups from across the city pushed for the city to place the ban on condo conversions.

These groups, many of whom were responsible for getting the MCM into power, pointed to the dangers of a free-market philosophy when it came to housing. Landlords make less money off renters than they do off condos, so if landlords can freely convert their property, tenants face harassment by landlords wishing to kick them out and make some fast bucks.

The city claims it will prevent this. But as most students know, all it takes is an incompetent landlord who's slow on repairs and quick on collecting rent to make a tenant want to move out. The MCM's assurances are not enough.

Fortunately there is a way of expressing resentment at yet another MCM screw-around. If you live anywhere downtown below Sherbrooke and between Papineau and Bleury, there's a by-election happening November 1.

If you do live in this area, known as Centre-Sud, you know there isn't a lot of affordable housing in the area. Already Centre-Sud is a prime area for developers, and with a lift on the ban on condos, developers would go nuts.

And there'd be as much a chance of getting a cheap place downtown as hearing Preston Manning preach the virtues of safer sex.

On November 1 there is a chance for you to say that you want to live downtown in an affordable place that's kept up.

Out of the twelve candidates running for the ward there are two you can tell to fuck off and take their plans for converting your place to a condo with them. One is Claude Watters, running for the MCM, and the other is Sammy Forcillo, running for the right-wing Civic Party, which for a long time has pushed for the lifting of the ban.

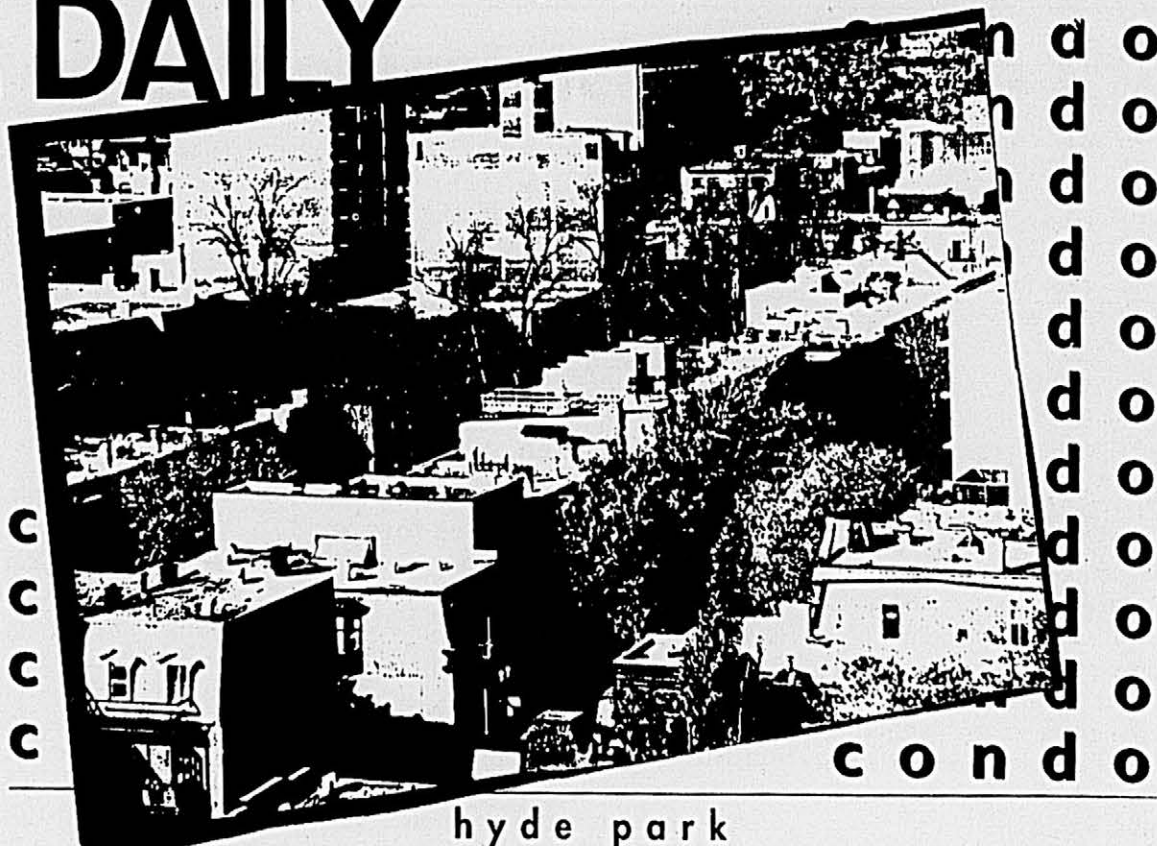
These two are the enemy of everyone who can't afford to buy their own place and don't see the merit of high-cost housing in their neighbourhood. Students, for instance. If you have a chance, vote for someone more friendly.

To make sure you're registered for the upcoming November 1 by-election, phone 872-1111 for info.

For information on the other ten candidates, talk to city councillors who are not members of the MCM or Civic Party: Sam Boskey, Marvin Rotrand, Claudette Demers-Godley, Michel Prescott, Marcel Sévigny and Pierre Goyer. They can all be reached at 872-3134.

For info on the Civic Party candidate talk to Nick Auf-der-Maur at 872-3134. For the candidate running for Écologie Montréal, talk to Dimitri Roussopoulos at 281-VERT. If you want to learn more about the MCM candidate, talk to some generic MCM bureaucrat at 395-8797.

Dave Ley



Vote Yes and stuff the Tories

Opinion by the McGill International Socialists

Calling for a critical "yes" vote raises many eyebrows among those who want to see real gains for Québec, First Nations, women, and other oppressed groups. The Accord itself is hardly worth the paper it's written on; the debate surrounding it, however, has a real impact on the fight for real gains for these groups. We believe that supporting the Accord critically is the best way to oppose the agenda of the right-wing, fight racism and build solidarity among oppressed groups.

The latest wave of anti-French bigotry, which has been on the rise since the defeat of the Meech Lake Accord, has shown itself most clearly in the growth of groups like the Reform Party, the Confederation of Regions Party, the Alliance for the Preservation of English in Canada and the Equality Party. These groups have used anti-French politics to push an agenda that attacks the rights not only of francophones but of Natives, women, gays and lesbians,

people of colour, and immigrants.

In the current political climate, a defeat for the Accord would be seen as a victory for these bigots who think Québec and First Nations are "getting too much" and would fuel racism and sexism in English Canada. This would have a disastrous impact not only on oppressed peoples in Canada but on politics within Québec.

In fact, every concession to oppressed groups granted in the Accord has been won through real struggle, not through legalistic battles in Parliament or in the courts. The minimal gain of the inherent right to self-government for Native peoples has far less to do with the constitutional manoeuvres of Ovide Mercredi than it does with the struggle mounted on the barricades at Oka. A critical "yes" vote means taking the inch that's been won and pushing for the mile.

In this respect the National Action Committee on the Status of Women

has made an error in its rejection of the Accord. It is true that NAC's motives for a "No" vote are completely removed from those of the Reform Party and other anti-French movements in English Canada. But NAC has allowed themselves to be pitted against Québec and Natives in ignoring the commonality of struggle against the right-wing and their ideas. NAC is being used by the reactionaries in the Reform Party - no friends of women's rights - as a progressive cover to attack the idea of granting any special rights to Natives and Québécois.

Anyone who wants to see progressive change to the exploitative, racist, sexist, and homophobic society we live in should say yes to Québécois and Native rights on October 26 while remaining critical of the undemocratic flag-waving charade the Tories and their allies have tried to foist upon us. If we don't want to see these people continue to set the political agenda with their reactionary nationalism, the only alternative is building solidarity between all those in both Canada and Québec who have an interest in opposing them.

Letters

Troll hair theory

To the Daily,

I am writing in response to Don McGowan's letter to the editors of the McGill Tribune on Tuesday, October 20.

1. While it is true that Dave Ley has big hair with respect to other people, trolls have big hair with respect to the amount of courage that they display. With this in mind, I must say that Dave Ley has a miniscule amount of hair. Excuse me while I draw the graph of hair vs courage. Sorry. I mean to say:

trolls = big hair — little courage
Dave Ley = big hair — other people

= small hair — lots of courage

You can see that it's an entirely different curve, showing just how different Dave Ley and trolls are.

2. I thought Don was the annoying guy in just about every conference.

3. Perhaps Mr. McGowan would have more credibility if he knew how to do the dishes properly, but until that unlikely event happens he should go back to doing the weather.

Michael Fleischer
U3 Engineering

Avoiding McGill

To the Daily,

The McGill Dailies of Wednesday October 14th and Thursday October 15th contained no stories about McGill. I wonder why you would wish to make yourselves irrelevant to the readership and body that funds you?

Chris Alam, U3 Arts
Assistant Editor in Chief,
McGill Tribune

Letters

Navel gazing all the way to PEI

To the Daily,

Am I the only guy who finds this constitutional mishmash more depressing than a crate of downers? Sure, the country will 'survive' a "no" vote (for a while, at least). And sure, Mulroney's an asshole we'd all like to see nailed to the wall.

But Christ. Whatever happened to plain old generosity? Or compromise? Everyone's roaming around with killer bees in their bonnets, trying to dump them into each other's laps. "If I don't get everything I want, Nyaah! I'll vote 'No' and nobody will get anything." Or else, "Let's flush the constitution down the crapper to spite our jackass

governments."

Sure. And leave the essential principles of constitutional change totally unresolved. Swell. Sooner or later we'll have to throw ourselves, like doomed lobsters, back into this boiling pot. Don't we have better things to do with our energies than write constitutions? Anybody out there remember the environment? The economy? Social justice? How are we supposed to deal effectively with real priorities if our energies are going to be indefinitely funnelled into this crap?

Yeah, I know. The present deal has a lot of asterisks. At least the basic concepts are settled and in a pretty fair, reasonable, balanced way. Leave the

We print all letters we get 300 words or less, except for hate literature or libel.

Your name and a telephone number where you can be reached must be included, along with your program and year if you are a student.

More verbose opinions can be expressed in the form of a Hyde Park, which is up to 500 words and should not be a response to anything within the pages of the Daily. Publication is not guaranteed.

bureaucrats to sift through the remaining muck and start looking forward — instead of down each other's dirty navels.

So get a life, you "nay" sayers. Vote "yes".

Greg Millard
Mgmt U2



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PURSuing
PEACE IN
GUATEMALA

AN
INTERVIEW
WITH

RAOUL MOLINA

BY WAYNE HILTZ

For the past thirty years, Guatemala has experienced a civil war between leftist guerrillas and right-wing governments dominated by the military. Peace talks between the URNG guerrilla coalition and the right-wing government have taken place for the past 18 months aimed at ending the longest-running civil war in the Americas. But very little of the Guatemalan peace process has been covered by the mass media.

Raoul Molina represents the position of the Guatemalan opposition (both armed and unarmed) before the United Nations and the Organisation of American States. He recently spoke with the *Daily* about the background of the peace process, the obstacles it faces, and the prospects for peace in Guatemala.

Daily: Leftist guerrillas have been waging an armed struggle against various military and military-dominated regimes for 30 years. What are the roots of this struggle in Guatemala?

Molina: The struggle began out of the great inequality in Guatemalan society, with very few owning the country's wealth while the vast majority are poor. Different groups have tried to solve this structural inequality — for instance, the democratic governments of 1944-54.

But this democratic attempt was interrupted by a CIA-orchestrated coup d'état which produced a situation of repression and constraint of the struggles of the Guatemalan people.

What forces led to the start of the peace process two years ago?

The roots can be traced back to the Esquipulas Accords in 1987, which created some of the conditions for the peace process in Guatemala. The Accords, which talked about reconciliation, ending armed conflicts, and respect for human rights in Central America, were not well-liked by the army.

The government said that it was applicable to Nicaragua and El Salvador but not to Guatemala. Under the Cerezo (Christian Democrat) government, the army was not willing to come to the negotiating table.

But once Serrano took office in early

1991, and thanks to strong international pressures and internal military pressures by the URNG, it was possible to sign the Mexico Accord in April, which established the conditions for direct talks between the government and the Guatemala National Revolutionary Unity (URNG).

Has there been any concrete results from these talks?

At the beginning, popular expectations and pressures on both sides were very high. In July 1991, the first and only agreement was reached with respect to democratization. It was a framework accord which included a set of rules that should be reached to have a society that could be considered democratic.

Unfortunately, the next item was a substantive issue — that of human rights — that would determine whether this framework for democracy was going to work. This process was very slow with the government at first being very reluctant to accept any changes. But by last December, the government had agreed to eight out of the URNG's eleven demands. The last three demands have proved to be more difficult.

More than nine months have passed to try to solve the issue of the civil defense patrols, the application of international humanitarian law and the formation of a Truth and Justice Commission that would investigate past violations of human rights.

In August, there was a partial human rights accord concerning the army's civilian patrols which have been cited for serious human rights violations. Why has it been criticised by some popular groups?

Most Guatemalans have demanded the immediate dismantling of the civilian patrol system. The solution is perhaps not the best one but it does provide for their eventual dismantling when the two sides discuss demilitarization.

The Accord states that all civilian patrols in which people openly express that they were not voluntary members and those involved in human rights violations would be dismantled.

What is the army's position regarding the peace talks?

The army is no longer a unified institution. Some favour the peace process while others prefer a military solution. The hardliners who have the upper hand want to weaken the URNG and to not offer any concessions. By increasing the repression and by being very inflexible vis à vis the peace process, they are overextending the negotiating process.

What is the U.S. government's role and its eventual strategic goals for Guatemala?

The United States wants Central America free of wars and is applying strong pressure to end the conflicts. During 1990 and early 1991, there was a lot of U.S. pressure to accelerate the process. But after that, we saw an indifference perhaps from the electoral campaign and concerns with internal problems. In 1992, this indifference has meant the slowing down of the peace process and an increase in human rights violations.

What is the U.S. strategy regarding the URNG? Does it want it to become a political party instead of a military force?

The U.S. would certainly like to see the URNG as a political party and better still if that party is not capable of forming a government and just participating in politics. But it has accepted at first that the fundamental problems should be debated and solutions should be found for some of those problems at the peace talks.

In that sense, the U.S. administration has come to understand the roots of the conflict and therefore it cannot demand that a revolutionary force such as the URNG simply lay down its arms, join the political arena, and then start solving the problems.

Do you foresee more stalling or perhaps some breakthroughs for the Guatemalan peace process?

If conditions do not change, we don't see how the peace process could be moved forward again. But conditions could change internally with the participation of civilian sectors, the intensification of the armed conflict, or if the international actors play a more determined role.

The United Nations has played only a secondary role with an observer who only takes notes. If there was more pressure from the international community, the Guatemalan government would certainly find itself in a very weak position and would have to be more flexible and perhaps overcome the difficulties of the human rights question.

What can Canadians do to help push the peace process forward?

We would like the Canadian people to continue asking the government to keep defending human rights in Guatemala. But it must go beyond having UN resolutions of expressing concern from time to time.

We have to move to concrete actions that could be termed sanctions — such as establishing very concrete conditions on bilateral aid to a country that continues with a very bad human rights record. The end of the war is fundamental for all Guatemalans and for the respect of human rights.

Agenda to abuse

Plan to tear down low-income housing for veterans indicative of city policies

Current housing trends in Montréal are leaving senior citizens and low-income families out in the cold. Benny Farm, a housing complex built over 45 years ago to provide WWII veterans with affordable housing, is the latest source of debate about the government's responsibility to such citizens.

The Canadian Housing and Mortgages Corporation (CMHC), a federally funded corporation established to provide and oversee housing in Canada, owns Benny Farm. Now it wants to demolish and privatize the site, selling 60% of the land to middle and upper income families.

BY CATRIN MORRIS

The main opposition to the plan is the NDG Community Council Housing Committee. They argue that since low-income citizens desperately need affordable homes, any land which is already in the public domain should stay public.

According to the CMHC's director, a Mr Velliquette, the mission of the corporation is to "try to provide the best homes for all Canadians".

"The CMHC is especially aware of the needs of specific individuals, such as women in trouble or handicapped people," he said.

But such individuals, who Benny Farm would provide with an inexpensive and safe environment, are being displaced by the widescale land privatization endorsed by the CMHC, according to critics.

The Housing Committee criticize the CMHC on four basic grounds. They say the housing corporation is unnecessarily demolishing housing which only needs minor renovation, tripling the density of the site and thereby crowding the neighbourhood and threatening its sense of community, privatizing public land and failing to recognize the needs of the broader community.

Their counterproposal rejects a wholesale demolition of Benny Farm. While recognizing the need for new facilities for tenants, a statement from the committee said that renovations would be "politically and environmentally a more acceptable solution."

It says their proposal would meet the needs of the larger community without excessive spending or overcrowding.

The committee proposed the creation of a land trust to provide rent-controlled, publically-owned and pleasant homes to citizens in NDG who cannot contend with fluctuating market trends.

"All preliminary studies indicate that the buildings can be renovated much more cheaply than replaced," according to their statement. It is "extremely wasteful" to destroy buildings "with hardwood floors, and attractive layouts which are, on the whole, in good condition."

Renovation was never considered a viable alternative, according to the Housing Committee, because it "did not satisfy the underlying political agenda of privatization."

No options

The density of a land site is the amount of building that occupies a

given area of land. The CMHC proposes to triple the land density at Benny Farm, a move which Pearl said would drastically disrupt the sense of community so important to Benny Farm residents.

The proposal to erect six story buildings on the site is opposed by the Housing Committee, which they say would destroy the character of the neighbourhood.

"Not only [will the buildings] be higher and cover more of the land but they will involve an entirely different type of residential building and structure of social interaction," according to the committee's statement.

NDG Community Council coordinator Lucia Kowaluk said. "The proposed increase in land density would overload the services on the surrounding streets."

She said the site should be doubled in size, rather than increase the density "in order to provide additional low-cost housing, which NDG badly needs."

The Housing Committee's counterproposal would maintain

the community spirit at Benny Farm by offering new homes to match the diversity of both new and old residents, she said.

The committee also says the CMHC did not consult with the

Committee said this is why 70% of the veterans voted in favour of the CMHC plans. "They were never given any other option," he said.

"We have been left in the dark because they never even asked us our opinion," he added.

Claudette Demers-Godley, an independent city councillor, said, "They said, 'This is it,' is if we disagree they announce that we don't care about the future of the veterans, when that is obviously our first priority."

"The CMHC is holding us hostage and we're made out to look like the bad guys," she added.

She said the Benny Farm incident is part of a series of similar profit-mongering moves by the city government. "They are planning to lift a ban on condo creation while ignoring the problem of displacement of the poor," she said.

She criticized the CMHC and the City of Montréal for "looking at any way of increasing its tax-base."



community before making its proposal. And when the tenants voted on the CMHC proposal, they did not provide the Housing Committee's counterproposal as an option.

Danny Pearl of the Housing

University of Toronto urged to expand aboriginal studies

BY LISA HEPNER

TORONTO (CUP) — Students and professors at the University of Toronto are urging the university to change its approach to teaching aboriginal culture.

Diane Longboat, director of U of T's First Nations House, says that the university's curriculum on First Nations is inadequate.

"U of T is absolutely silent on indigenous knowledge. We (the First Nations House) offset the U of T curriculum by catering to the personal interests of Native students," said Longboat.

Longboat added that the prospect of native self-government outlined in the Charlottetown accord makes the need for a native-based curriculum all the

more pressing.

"With the (proposed) third level of government, we need people who are highly educated and have a strong foundation of knowledge about the values and traditions of their people."

Carol Couchie is a psychology and religious studies major who was president of the Native Students' Association (NSA) two years ago. She said her experience as a student has led her to believe that U of T needs more native professors and an aboriginal studies program which is not part of the anthropology department.

"The programs at First Nations' House gave me the history which is hard to find at U of T," she said.

Longboat also said that U of T should hire more native professors.

"It would bring credibility to (U of T) to hire native professors," said Longboat, "and there are hundreds of qualified natives out there."

But David Neelands, assistant vice-president of student affairs, said that finding qualified native professors is difficult.

"Although U of T believes that participation in post-secondary education is important in reclaiming native rights, before it can hire native professors, it must first recruit them into the university."

Michael Marrus, a history professor and chair of the board which advises U of T on academic policy, said it is up to the deans of the various divisions to decide to expand on native curriculum.

"The university's budget is already strained with existing

programs," he said.

Some academics are attempting to fill in the gaps in native studies at U of T.

Krystina Sieciechowicz of the U of T anthropology department said that two 300-level courses in aboriginal culture have recently been approved. One course is on Native Canadian history and another is on native self-government.

"Both are an attempt to examine the existing legal and political implications that have brought us to this present constitutional crisis."

Although Sieciechowicz said that U of T has agreed to help finance the courses, she hopes to get most of the money from the federal government and private donors.

Bernard Cinader of the Immunology Department proposed last

year to have an Institute of First Nations Culture at the School of Graduate Studies. He said underfunding is no excuse.

"First Nations should be an integral and important part of the University's intellectual basis. We need to adapt our academic life to new or newly perceived needs," he said.

Although Cinader acknowledges that U of T has made progress in opening its doors to native students since he proposed starting a native-based curriculum at the Faculty of Medicine in 1981, there are still core ideological obstacles.

"There is still a parochial, superior attitude in our university. I do not want to help the 'poor natives.' It's not us-them anymore."

classified ads

Ads may be placed through the Daily business office, Room B-17, Union Building, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication. McGill Students (with valid ID): \$3.50 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$2.50 per day. McGill Employees (with staff card) \$4.50 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$3.50 per day. All others: \$5.00 per day, or \$4.00 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. (Prices do not include applicable GST or PST). For more information, please visit our office in person or call 398-6790 - **WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE.** The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damage due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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Bicycles: Rocky Mountain Fusion, 1990, 18", Dedre IX and DX, free overhaul, \$450. Gardin Loria, 1991, 21", Shimano

105, clipless pedals, \$550. Phone Kevin 845-4671.

Computer Must Sell - Moving. 386-33, 4Mb RAM, 64K cache, 120Mb HD, SVGA Monitor & card (1024 x 768 x 256), 2400bd modem, Adlib sound card, mouse, tower case, lots of software: Win. 3.1, DTP, music, games, etc. Only \$1599. 935-8836 Raymond.

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8 - To Give Away

Share your thoughts with us. 398-6246.

12 - Personal

I am looking for someone to help me with my Italian. If interested, please call 842-0593.

Man, 28 years old, French speaking student, looking for a romance with a girl. I like classical music, jazz and arts. Jean-

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14 - Notices

Car Rally. Test your driving and navigational skills. Saturday, October 24, 16h30 to midnight. No experience necessary, \$15 per car. Call Sports Motor Car Club 457-2938 (eve.)

ST. MARTHA'S IN-THE-BASEMENT: An informal, non-denominational Christian community meets every Sunday 10:30 a.m., basement United Theological College, 3521 University. 398-4104. Every one welcome.

Creative Geniuses Wanted to work on our fabulous P.R. committee. GRIP-Québec-PIRG needs you to come up with advertising ideas and awareness campaigns. Call Kalya: 845-7169.

MACROBIOTIC POTLUCK DINNER Wednesday, October 21st, 7:30 p.m. Vegans welcome. Please call: 987-9441.

Confused or Curious? LBGM (Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays of McGill) is restarting peer counselling. Anyone interested in finding out about LBGM or has questions about their sexuality is welcome to drop by room 417, Shalmer or call 398-6822. Hours are during lunch and 7 to 10, Monday through Saturday.

Want to Talk? LBGM (Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays of McGill) sponsors two discussion groups at the Yellow Door, 3625 Aylmer, above Milton. A coming out support group meets at 5:30, and a discussion group meets at 7:30. A great way to find out about yourself and others.

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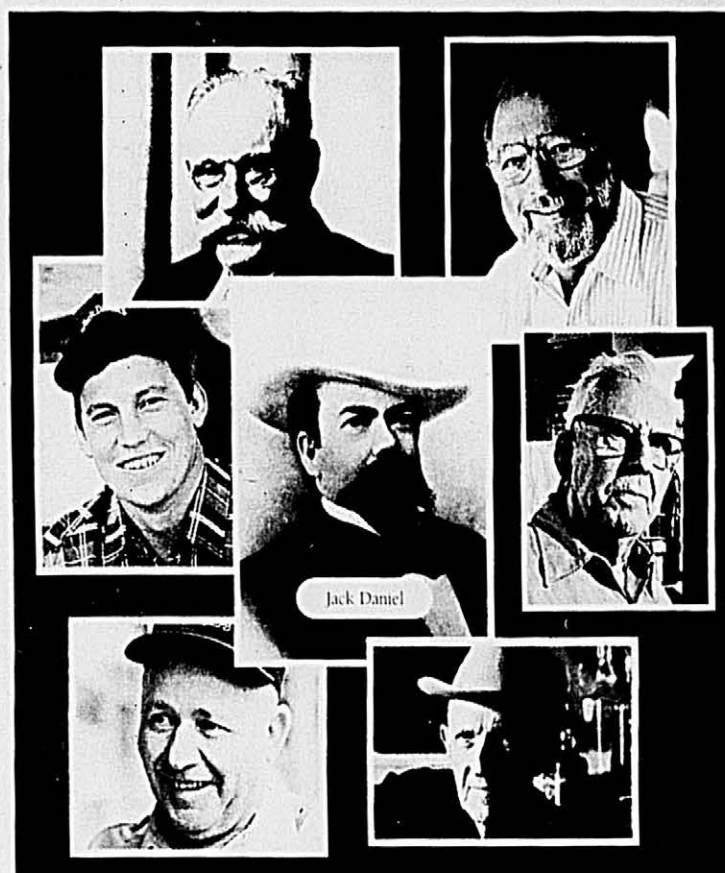
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ADVERTISE IN THE DAILY**The Post-Graduate Students' Society Presents****THE LAST GREAT DEBATE ON THE CHARLOTTETOWN ACCORD:****SHOULD QUEBECKERS VOTE YES OR NO?****PARTICIPANTS:**

Alain Gagnon, Dept. of Political Science, McGill
Andrée Lajoie, Faculté de Droit, Université de Montréal
John McCallum, Dean of Arts, McGill
Charles Taylor, Dept. of Philosophy, McGill
Jeremy Webber, Faculty of Law, McGill

TIME: Thursday, Oct. 22
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

PLACE: University Centre
Room 425/426



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alternative press clips

Leaking bullshit

A leaked version of the speech George Bush plans to give if he's re-elected is printed in the Fall issue of *The Covert Action Information Bulletin*.

The inaugural address, which Covert Action's handwriting expert said was probably written by Bush himself, is accompanied by extensive footnotes provided by Edward Herman, explaining Bush's doublespeak.

"My fellow Americans, I stand here before you proud to accept the honor and challenge of my second term as President of the greatest nation on earth and leader of the Free World," opens the speech.

He talks about being "compassionate" and "reach[ing] out to the poor", while also saying nasty things about "special interests" and "safety nets" (read: social programs).

"Our first step must be to cut the capital gains tax so that those most able to help the less fortunate will be able to do just that," he says.

Sure it's all lies, but it's nice to know he's prepared.

War on queers

The latest *Nation* has a lot of nice things to say about Bill Clinton, the only convincing bit being Donna Minkowitz's piece on the war on queers in the U.S.

She discusses the by-now famous ballot initiatives which might make "promoting" gaiety illegal in Oregon and Colorado, as well as rising attacks on lesbians in gays all across the country.

Clinton hasn't been great on queer issues (sodomy is still illegal in Arkansas and he made no mention of Oregon's death-to-homos ballot initiative while speaking there several weeks ago), but he isn't carrying the anti-gay baggage of the Republicans.

"While some progressives may be thinking there is little difference between Bush and Clinton (and even toying with the idea of voting for a progressive third party candidate), lesbians and gay men across the country view this selection as a matter of survival," says Minkowitz.

Choose sex

The October issue of *Kinesis* contains an interesting discussion of sex pre-selection techniques.

It concerns a technology from the U.S. by which sperm of a given sex are selected and artificially inseminated into the woman.

Women interviewed in the article compared the technology to eugenics. "The logical procession is blond, blue-eyed babies," said Beverly Bain of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women.

The argument is that technologies such as these are useful only to sexists who will use them to have "more valuable" male children.

Physicians using the technology have also been criticised for targeting them at South Asian communities, who are presumed to devalue female children more than other cultures do.



REPRINTED FROM Z MAGAZINE

Spreading pollutants

The October *Z Magazine* has a frightening prediction of what the North American Free Trade Agreement might involve, with a close-up look at the Maquiladoras, a free-trade zone along the Mexico/U.S. border.

It details the pollution and low wages which have led to toxic water, birth defects and huge amounts of crime — as well as making the area a haven for American-owned corporations.

It stays away from the they'll-steal-our-jobs nationalism which dominates the U.S.'s official opposition, emphasizing the impact of the deal on Mexican workers and families.

Z suggests that if the deal goes through, the conditions that dominate the Maquiladoras will spread throughout the rest of Mexico.

— compiled by Dan Robins

Judy Rebick speaks at McGill

Presenting a coherent and progressive argument for the No

BY SUSAN VIVAN

It's hard to avoid contact with mass media's discussion of the Charlottetown Accord. But don't be fooled into thinking you're getting the whole story.

Judy Rebick, president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) and Madeleine Parent, Québec's regional NAC representative, spoke at McGill last Thursday. Presenting a coherent and progressive argument for the No, they contradicted mass media portrayals of Canadian women mudfighting while the men of the country discuss the Constitution.

NAC's "No"

Rebick said NAC's position reflected the group's feminist foundation and commitment to pursuing equality and social justice.

"Our position is a rejection of an elitist patriarchal political system that doesn't represent people," said Rebick. "The Accord represents a step back with respect to social justice and equality."

Rebick outlined the problems within the Canada clause and the threats to future social programs which NAC sees in the Charlottetown Accord.

"We believe this accord to be worse than Meech because of the threat to new social programs," she said. "NAC wanted a strong central government that defended social programs, and it didn't get it."

Rebick said the NAC is particularly concerned about the lack of mention of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in the equality clauses in the Accord.

"The language of the Accord changes with respect to racial minorities and women. Unlike references to official minority languages and government with respect to equality, there is no mention of government commitment to equality and no progressive language used for groups not mentioned."

Groups excluded from equality and social justice in the Accord include disabled people, seniors, the poor, religious minorities and lesbians and gays.

"The balance of 1982 between the power of government and the rights of individual groups is being shifted towards the power of gov-

ernment," said Rebick.

"We believe the changes to the Canada clause are a deliberate attempt to undermine the Charter and promote fear about distinct

"All elites, with the exception of the leadership of the women's movement, are on the yes side," said Rebick. "But the majority is for No in BC, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba with a national split of 50:50."

"While the leadership of organizations across the country is supporting the Charlottetown Accord, the members of those organizations and grass roots activist groups that belong to them are all against it," she said. "NAC is one of the only organizations where the leadership and the executive are united."

Despite NAC's solidarity as an organization, mass media has promoted the image of NAC as a group divided. But Rebick says this is the result of the media's misunderstanding of NAC.

"We never claimed to represent all women," she said. "NAC is a

coalition of 550 member feminist groups. It is those women we represent, not all the women of Canada."

Of the 550 NAC member groups only two, excluding unions, disagree with the organization's executives' No position.

Referendum undemocratic

Rebick also provided insight into the referendum process outside Québec.

"The referendum in Québec is democratic, unlike the rest of the country," she said.

Rebick emphasized the high financial cost of the referendum outside Québec, which is the only province to impose strict spending limits on the Yes and No campaigns.

"In the rest of Canada there is no limit on the number of yes committees, and each committee can spend 56 cents per person. So far there are 300 yes committees, and that means \$3 million."

Rebick also drew attention to the \$125 million the federal government has spent on advertising.

"The process is changing the face of Canadian politics forever," said Rebick. "When people rise up and say no there is a reason for it, and I think it's good."

"The decision of NAC is not my decision, but the decision of a multiracial, inclusive collective of women that will no longer accept a piece of the patriarchal pie. This style of elite male leadership is no longer acceptable," she said.

